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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2163, NOVEMBER 20, 5 PM

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I CALLED ON DE GAULLE THIS AFTERNOON AT 3:30 AND DELIVERED TO HIM THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER (DEPTEL 2645). GENERAL DE GAULLE READ THE LETTER VERY CAREFULLY AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. I THEN TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR AT THIS MOMENT WHAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD SAY AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE BECAUSE CASTRO'S LETTER TO U THANT WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN ON THE CUBAN RADIO LAST NIGHT ON THE SUBJECT OF THE REMOVAL OF IL-28'S WAS NOT AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON IN AUTHENTIC TEXT. I SAID HOWEVER THAT EVEN IF THE IL-28 QUESTION WAS DISPOSED OF THERE WAS STILL THE MATTER OF ON-SITE INSPECTION IN CUBA, SAFEGUARDS FOR THE FUTURE, AND THERE ALWAYS REMAINED THE POSSIBILITY THAT CASTRO WOULD ACT ON HIS THREAT TO FIRE ON US RECONNAISSANCE PLANES, WHICH WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE US RETALIATORY MEASURES.

DE GAULLE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD OF THE CASTRO LETTER TO U THANT BUT MADE NO COMMENT ON ITS CONTENTS. I TOOK OCCASION TO TELL THE GENERAL THAT WE OF COURSE WISHED TO EXAMINE THOROUGHLY THE TEXT ONCE IT WAS RECEIVED AND THAT WE WERE DETERMINED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO LOOSE ENDS IN THIS CUBAN AFFAIR, WITH WHICH HE EXPRESSED CONCURRENCE.

AT THIS POINT KENT JOINED US AND BRIEFED THE GENERAL ON THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE INDICATIONS FROM CUBA. DE GAULLE APPEARED VERY INTERESTED AND EXAMINED CAREFULLY THE VARIOUS PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWN HIM.

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IN CONCLUSION THE GENERAL SAID IT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO SAY AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMMENTED THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CUBAN THING SEEMED TO COME VERY RAPIDLY.

BOHLEN

DMJ

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